

had 240 volumes bound, and obtained fifteen volumes by purchase and nine by donation, making the total increase of our newspaper collection 264 volumes, of which twenty-seven are of quarto and 237 of folio size. The fifteen volumes purchased are all, except one, English newspapers, published between 1758 and 1794—exceedingly valuable for their antiquity, as well as for the current record of events in the then American Colonies, and in the infancy of our new Republic. Beside these, there are 78 other newspaper files, also published beyond the limits of Wisconsin, from 1844 to 1860, of which 22 volumes are made up of daily papers of New York, Chicago and London, and eleven volumes of semi and tri-weeklies, aggregating 125 years of newspaper literature. One hundred and seventy-one volumes, of which seventy-four are dailies, and furnishing in the aggregate 300 years of newspaper literature, are exclusively Wisconsin papers, published from 1845 to 1861. Many of the volumes comprise as many as three or four years of a single weekly newspaper in a separate volume; so that the entire 264 bound newspaper files added to our collections the past year cover in the aggregate a period of 425 years.

The entire collection in the newspaper department now numbers 757 volumes, and must aggregate very nearly a thousand years of this valuable class of historical literature. There is no other such collection, nor any thing at all comparable to it, to be found in the West, and but few equal to it anywhere; and probably there is no State in the Union which has so complete a collection of its own leading newspapers as our Society has brought together during the past eight years.

Such newspaper files, besides their uses for the purposes of history, their gratification and interest as objects of curiosity, and the opportunities they so richly afford us for contrasting the tame and simple past with the astonishing strides of the ever-onward present, also contain thousands of published legal notices, advertisements, and records of public events. These are often required as evidence in our higher courts: and upon these unpretending newspaper files, which are too generally regarded as of little value, immense property interests fre-